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Serial No. 08/736,112

Page 21, line 26, change "111" to -III-.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, line 11, change "at least 15" to --between 20-50--.

Cancel claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 without prejudice, and cancel claims 19-21 without prejudice to applicant's rights to file a divisional application on the subject matter thereof.

Claim 3, line 3, change "20" to --21--.

Claim 6, line 3, change "20" to --25--.

Claims 8 and 9, line 4 of each, insert --fresh-- before "alkali".

Claim 10, line 4, change "90%" to --80%-- and insert --fresh-- after "total".

Claim 11, line 4, change "50" to --35--.

Claim 12, lines 2 and 3, delete "at more than two different locations, and added".

Claim 15, line 4, change "40" to --35--.

Claim 17, line 2, change "thirty" to --fifteen-- and change "20" to --25--.

Amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) A method of producing chemical pulp having enhanced intrinsic fiber strength from comminuted cellulosic fibrous material, comprising the steps of continuously and sequentially:

(a) treating the comminuted cellulosic fibrous material with a first cooking liquor having a first effective alkali concentration which is greater than 10 g/l;

11 g/l

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(b) further treating the material with the first cooking liquor so as to consume alkali from the first cooking liquor, so that the effective alkali concentration of the spent first liquor is reduced to about 10 g/l or less;

(c) extracting the spent first cooking liquor from the material;

(d) treating the material with a second cooking liquor having a second effective alkali concentration greater than about 25 g/l and greater than the first concentration, the second cooking liquor providing at least 50% of the total fresh alkali to be consumed by the material in the production of chemical pulp;

(e) cooking the material with the second cooking liquor at cooking temperature to produce chemical pulp and a spent second cooking liquor having an effective alkali concentration expressed as NaOH or equivalent of greater than about [15] 20 g/l; and

(f) extracting the spent second cooking liquor from the pulp in the digester; and wherein step (e) is practiced for more than 30 minutes, and wherein during at least the last fifteen minutes the effective alkali concentration expressed as NaOH or equivalent is between [18] 20-40 g/l, so as to produce chemical pulp having enhanced intrinsic fiber strength compared to if the effective alkali concentration was below 15 g/l during the last fifteen minutes of step (e).

Claim 18, line 2, insert --fresh-- before "alkali".

Add the following new claims:

-22. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein step (b) is practiced in at least two different stages, a first stage closer to the digester inlet, and a second stage further

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from the digester inlet; and wherein said second stage is a counter-current cooking stage.

23. A method as recited in claim 22 wherein the second cooking stage is the last cooking stage, and is counter-current, and wherein during the last minute before the cook is terminated in the second, counter-current, cooking stage the effective alkali concentration expressed as NaOH or equivalent is between 20-35 g/l.

24. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein step (b) is practiced in at least two different stages, a first stage closer to the digester inlet, and a second stage further from the digester inlet; and wherein said second stage is a counter-current cooking stage.

25. A method as recited in claim 1 comprising the further step of subjecting the material to a counter-current wash to substantially terminate the cook before discharge of the material from the continuous digester.

26. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein steps (d) and (e) are practiced in a counter-current cooking stage.

27. A method as recited in claim 17 wherein steps (d) and (e) are practiced in a counter-current cooking stage.

28. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein step (b) is practiced to consume at least 7% on wood of effective alkali.--